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South [illegible] reports of the [illegible] interview in which he claimed to have received assurances from you of Western military support, in the event the Geneva talks fail because of the blacks. The press also carried Funseth's denial of any such assurances from you.

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6226
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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SUMMARY: ON RHODESIA, SMITH TELEVISION INTERVIEW RE EXPECTED AID FROM WEST IF GENEVA TALKS FAIL; FURTHER MILITARY ACTION ON BORDER WITH MOZAMBIQUE. NO EDITORIAL COMMENT. ON NAMIBIA, TURNHALLE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE TO MEET VORSTER; DECREASED INSURGENCY ACTION ON ANGOLA BORDER. NO EDITORIAL COMMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. VARIOUS PAPERS CARRIED REPORTS OF SMITH INTERVIEW ON RHODESIAN TV FRIDAY NIGHT. SMITH REPORTED SAYING IF GENEVA TALKS FAILED THROUGH NO FAULT OF HIS GOVT, HE HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE BY KISSINGER THAT HE WOULD RECEIVE "TANGIBLE" ASSISTANCE FROM THE WEST, INCLUDING MILITARY SUPPLIES. REPORT FROM SALISBURY CORRESPONDENT IN JOHANNESBURG'S "THE CITIZEN" QUOTED SMITH SAYING THERE HAD BEEN NO "HARD AND FAST" UNDERTAKING

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FROM KISSINGER DURING SEPTEMBER TALKS IN PRETORIA, "BUT HE DID GIVE ME AN ASSURANCE THAT IF WE ENTERED INTO THIS AGREEMENT AND IT COLLAPSED BECAUSE OF WHAT THE BLACK RHODESIANS HAD DONE, AS OPPOSED TO MYSELF AND MY GOVT, THEN HE (KISSINGER) WAS ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED WE WOULD GET A GREAT DEAL MORE SYMPATHY FROM THE FREE WORLD AND TANGIBLE ASSISTANCE". SMITH SAID HE HAD NOT GONE INTO DETAILS WITH KISSINGER, BUT WHEN ASKED BY INTERVIEWER IF HE UNDERSTOOD THAT WESTERN SUPPORT MUST INCLUDE MILITARY SUPPLIES, HE REPORTEDLY REPLIED "YES".

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2. PAPERS THAT CARRIED ABOVE STORY ALSO CARRIED FUNSETH DENIAL OF ANY SUCH GUARANTEES FROM KISSINGER.

3. VARIOUS PAPERS CARRIED REPORT, MONITORED FROM MOZAMBIQUE RADIO, OF "MAJOR BATTLE" BETWEEN RHODESIAN AND MOZAMBIQUE FORCES INSIDE MOZAMBIQUE TERRITORY AND ONLY 30 KILOMETERS FROM TRANSVAAL (RSA) BORDER. REPORTS QUOTED MOZAMBIQUE RADIO SAYING RHODESIAN TROOPS, SUPPORTED BY HELICOPTERS, BOMBERS AND ARMORED CARS, HAD BEEN IN CONTINUOUS CONTACT WITH A FRELIMO BATTALION AT PAFURI, NEAR THE NORTHERN BORDER OF RSA'S KRUGER NATIONAL PARK SINCE EARLY THURSDAY MORNING AND WAS CONTINUING THROUGH FRIDAY NIGHT. REPORTS IN CAPE TOWN'S "CAPE TIMES" AND JOHANNESBURG'S "RAND DAILY MAIL" SAID "IF THE REPORT IS TRUE A FULL-SCALE WAR NOW SEEMS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES".

4. VARIOUS PAPERS REPORTED TURNHALLE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE SCHEDULED TO MEET RSA PREMIER VORSTER NOV 25 IN PRETORIA. JOHANNESBURG AFRIKAANS PAPER "DIE TRANSVALER" REPORTED ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED WOULD INCLUDE INSTALLATION OF INTERIM GOVT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS ALREADY TAKEN BY TURNHALLE CONFERENCE. PAPER SAID MEETINGS WOULD "ADD NEW MOMENTUM TO SWA DEVELOPMENTS.

5. JOHANNESBURG AFRIKAANS PAPER "BEELD" REPORTED DROP IN INSURGENCY ACTION ON NAMIBIA/ANGOLA BORDER IN PAST FORTNIGHT. REPORT QUOTED RSA MILITARY SOURCE ATTRIBUTING THIS TO LACK OF MOTIVATION ON PART OF GUERRILLA LEADERSHIP.

6. "RAND DAILY MAIL" CARRIED SHORT REPORT QUOTING UNNAMED SWAPO SOURCE IN WINDHOEK SAYING MOVEMENT'S INTERNAL WING WOULD ASSIST

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ARMED INVASION OF NAMIBIA FROM ANGOLA PLANNED FOR MID 1977. SOURCE QUOTED SAYING SWAPO CONSIDERS MR VORSTER'S REFUSAL TO TALK AS A DECLARATION OF WAR. HIS ATTITUDE PROVES HE IS NO LONGER INTERESTED IN A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. SWAPO IS PREPARED TO TALK TO MR VORSTER AT ANY TIME AND MR VORSTER CAN EVEN DRAG THE KURNEALLE INTO IT IF HE WANTS TO. BUT SWAPO'S OFFER WILL NOT BE OPEN INDEFINITELY. ITEM.
HUGHES

S/S-O